

Congres NVGP 24 maart 2023

DIVERSITEIT



Emotions and Empathy in the Primates*

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Emotions suffuse much of the language employed by students of animal behavior -- from "social bonding" to "alarm calls" -- yet are still regularly avoided as explicit topic in scientific discourse. Given the increasing interest of human psychology in the emotions, and the neuroscience on animal emotions such as fear and attachment, the taboo that has hampered animal research is outdated. It is crucial to separate emotions from feelings, which are subjective experiences that may accompany the emotions. Whereas science has no access to animal feelings, animal emotions are as observable and measurable (face, voice, physiology, neural activity) as human emotions. I will further draw upon research on empathy and the perception of emotions in primates to make the point that the study of animal emotions is a necessary complement to the study of behavior. Empathy is an old mammalian mechanism that probably started with maternal care but then spread to other social relationships. While the emotions serve as organizers of adaptive responses to environmental stimuli, empathy rests on the capacity to perceive another's emotions and to match these emotions, which may lead to helping responses. A remarkable degree of directed altruism is observable in the primates.

Dr. Frans B. M. de Waal is a Dutch/American biologist and primatologist known for his work on the behavior and social intelligence of primates. His first book, *Chimpanzee Politics* (1982), compared the schmoozing and scheming of chimpanzees involved in power struggles with that of human politicians. His scientific work has been published in hundreds of technical articles in journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, *Scientific American*, and outlets specialized in animal behavior. His popular books - translated into 20+ languages - have made him one of the world's most visible primatologists. His latest books are *Mama's Last Hug* (Norton, 2019) and *Different: Gender Through the Eyes of a Primatologist* (Norton, 2022). De Waal is C. H. Candler Professor Emeritus at Emory University and Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Utrecht University. He has been elected to the (US) National Academy of Sciences as well as the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2007, *Time* declared him one of The Worlds' 100 Most Influential People Today.

*Deze lezing is in het Nederlands